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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT
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REPORT

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COUNTRY

East Germany

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SUBJECT

	Views on the World
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Economic Conference

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Margarete Kuckhoff, President of the Deutsche Notenbank, was leader of the East German delegation to the World Economic Conference in Moscow, 3-10 April 1952. She was born on 14 December 1902 in Frankfurt a.d. Oder and is fluent in English, having studied and worked at the University of Wisconsin from 1927 to 1929. Although from a Catholic family, Kuckhoff is seemingly well-grounded in communist theory. Her underground activities against the Third Reich led to her arrest in 1942; she was condemned to death but the sentence was later commuted. Since 1945, she has been active in Berlin and East German government work, rising to the presidency of the Notenbank in 1950.
2. The World Economic Conference was considered a success by all participants, including the Soviets, because it fulfilled the limited goals which were established for it. The conference was intended more to discover the needs of the various countries, to explore the possibilities for trade and to establish agreements within which trade can be developed, than to conclude hard and fast trade treaties. The negotiations were carried through in a manner such as to avoid disputes. The general interest of all participants was emphasized; fundamental differences of opinion were not aggravated, and were avoided where possible. Business connections set up at Moscow through the "Bureau for Personal Contacts" offer prospects for the future which far outweigh the importance of current agreements.
3. Since a political objective of the conference was to undermine the anti-Soviet "war front", it was intended at first to play up the trade agreements signed at Moscow. After some discussion, it was decided not to do so because it might make difficulties for certain participating groups, and achievements in the expansion of trade were deemed more important than propaganda.

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